

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

September 7, 2005

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts



This Public Announcement is being issued to update U.S. Citizens on the Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts. Hurricane Katrina struck the southeastern United States August 29, causing widespread damage and prompting the largest domestic relief effort in U.S. history.

- 1) Countries from every corner of the globe are offering their assistance to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort. Several countries in the Middle East have made generous offers and contributions. Kuwait has offered \$100 million in grant aid and \$400 million in petroleum products. Greece's offer of Greek cruise ships for temporary shelter and Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) have been accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

Many private citizens from around the globe also want to donate their personal funds to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We encourage citizens to donate relief funds through the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org). Citizens in Greece can donate funds to the Hellenic Red Cross, and the Hellenic Red Cross will give the funds to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. Visit <http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/> for additional ways to offer assistance to hurricane victims. FEMA, the U.S. Federal Government's emergency office has posted a list of legitimate fund raising organizations with phone number contact information on where donations can be made to assist the victims of the recent hurricane (<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=18473>).

Additionally, we have been alerted to the potential of Internet scams, or "Phishing," associated with collecting well-intentioned relief contributions. HURRICANE KATRINA SCAMS: It hasn't taken long for criminals to try to take advantage of the sympathy all of us feel toward the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They are already sending "phishing" e-mails pretending to be solicitations from the Red Cross Web site. Do not respond to any e-mail soliciting donations from the Red Cross or other organizations. Go directly to their Web site or call them to make donations.

- 2) As a result of Hurricane Katrina, thousands of people within the United States and abroad have lost contact with their loved ones. We would like to advise concerned family members of U.S. Citizens and foreign nationals residing or traveling in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina to try to reach their family members by phone, e-mail or other available means. If foreign nationals cannot reach their family members directly, we recommend they contact their embassy in Washington, DC for assistance. Reports from the region indicated that some phone lines are working but experiencing

heavy call volume, so family members should be encouraged to keep trying. Several governmental and non-governmental victim databases have been established for victims and concerned family members to locate each other. These databases can be accessed at the following webpage:

http://firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane_Katrina_Recovery.shtml

If you are missing a family member we encourage you to register them with the International Committee of the Red Cross at <http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/katrina>. Concerned family members can also call the American Red Cross Family Links Registry at 1-877-568-3317.

For the most up to date information on the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts concerned individuals can visit www.state.gov, www.redcross.org, and www.fema.gov.